



BURKIES GONE GLOBAL

Local at Heart. International in Reach.

EIJI MINAGAWA '79 (Japan)



Where were you born?

Ohkura Village in Yamagata, about 500km north of Tokyo.

What's your current hometown?

Hayama in Kanagawa, south of Tokyo, just by the Pacific Ocean.

What studies did you complete after BMA?

I attended Springfield College where I graduated in '83 with a major in Recreation and Leisure Services (lots of playing outdoors, it may sound. Yes, it was, I must admit!).

What's the highest level of ski racing you competed?

I mostly did FIS Races while attending BMA and during college years. Back then, only a few racers came from Japan to the Eastern Region, so it was probably the JPN quota that allowed me to stand at the start gate. I still have pictures from the races. Can you imagine we

didn't wear helmets in GS races? Sunday River DH races were fun, especially the 90 degree right turn into the flat section, that was something to overcome.

What's your current profession?

I am currently working for a German affiliated company as a CFO. The company manufactures electro-magnetic clutches and brakes and frequency inverters. On weekends, I used to enjoy domestic races in Japan and did well especially (only) on hard ice conditions.

How did you hear about BMA and chose to attend?

Going to college/university in Japan necessitates high school students to take entrance exams. I was thinking about going to a university with a division 1 level ski team, but I couldn't pass the exam. Spending one more year just for preparing and taking such entrance exams seemed meaningless to me then. Fortunately, a French ski manufacturer with a new operation back then in Burlington, VT introduced me a very fascinating school for ski racers. They had organized a race-camp in Japan that I attended. I think it was the link. A very thin line I pulled. It was already April then, I didn't hesitate to ask my family to allow me five years to complete my college education. Four years in college, and one year at BMA to prepare. That one year didn't end up just as a preparation. It became the most meaningful year in my life. Between the 1.75 mile run and the Green Mountain Run down to Heath, MA, there were so many, so much to write about.

How does your BMA experience impact you to this day?

“Doing the best in the given environment” is okay, but thinking about “building the best environment” is really up to you. Think about that. Now, do I sound like Dr. Jim Taylor?

What do you miss about Burke?

Freedom. Freedom to work as hard as I wished. I miss having that freedom to be 100% dedicated to becoming the best I can be.

What’s your fondest BMA tradition or activity?

Knee-touch squats! What else!?! Where it takes place doesn’t matter. It is forever the hell experience. It will never change for the next 50 years for sure.

What’s your fondest BMA campus location?

Woods House basement. It was probably the warmest spot. In the living room of Frazier House, sitting next to the stove was really warm also, but made me sleepy even during some “important student meetings”.

Is there a BMA tradition you’ve kept in adulthood?

I don’t race today anymore but enjoy being a race staff. Making sure to build and provide the best race environment depends on the race officials. Gatekeeping to TD’ing, everybody works for the same goal. From the officials’ side, I respect all the hard work each racer puts in their life as ski racers. By attending BMA, I now know and understand what is important for this world of ski racing. Being the start referee is my favorite. I enjoy sending off, especially little racers onto the race course, hoping they ALL make their way to the finish line and getting hugs from moms and smiles from dads regardless of how many fraction of seconds off the winning time theirs were.

FABIO IGEL ‘88 (Brazil)



Where were you born?

São Paulo, Brasil.

What’s your current hometown?

São Paulo, Brasil.

What studies did you complete after BMA?

I attended the Hosta Ecole Hotelière in Switzerland and graduated in 1993. Hotel business school was amazing for me because I learned to deal with people, with excellent entrepreneur’s teams and building my network.

What’s the highest level of ski racing you competed?

I was on the Brazilian national ski team for 7 years. I competed in World Championships (Crans Montana ‘87, Vail ‘89 and Sierra Nevada ‘95) and also in the Albertville Olympics in 1992.

What's your current profession?

I am the founder and manager of Monashees Capital Venture Capital (monashees.com.br). Monashees is a venture capital fund that I started with a friend in 2005. We invest in seed and series A (very early stage finance) high tech startups. We focus on Brasil and Latin America but we have a portfolio strategy. After ten years, we had invested in 60 companies. On the side, I've also founded the [San Francisco Deltas](#) soccer team. This is a personal dream of mine and a long shot. I love soccer and believe the US will be all about soccer in the near future.

How did you hear about BMA and chose to attend?

I went to a ski camp with the Mahre twin brothers Phil and Steve in Vermont in 1985. They recommended some ski academies including Burke.

How does your BMA experience impact you to this day?

Hard work, discipline, people, people, people, community, community, community.

What do you miss about Burke?

Skiing, training, playing, nature, old friends.

What's your fondest BMA tradition or activity?

Playing soccer surrounded by such beautiful and stellar views, going to East Burke on Sundays to buy the big sandwiches (subs) at the family store, watching NFL games in Rick's house (Heib House), biking to Lake Willoughby, playing poker games in friends' rooms, physical test days (my god, I remember that well).

What's your fondest BMA memory?

There's a special moment that sticks in my mind. One fall morning, Canadian coach Luke was leading a dryland training session. We were supposed to warm up at the base of Burke Mountain and then hike up doing several drills and exercises. I was really dying in the end and I was going to quit by simply walking slowly. But he kept behind me saying: "You can do it! You can do it!" and I kept a good rhythm until the end thanks to him. That stayed with me and I learned from him that day that we always have a few extra miles or extra minutes of pain and effort that we can handle. It was a great lesson for me that day and an amazing feeling of conquest.

CÉDRIANE de BOUCAUD '89 (United Kingdom, Switzerland)

**Where were you born?**

Tunis, Tunisia.

What's your current hometown?

Evolene, Switzerland.

What studies did you complete after BMA?

I completed my BA in 1992 and my MPA in 1996 both at Cornell.

What's the highest level of ski racing you competed?

Not very high!

What's your current profession?

I am an investor in the realm of private equity.

How does your BMA experience impact you to this day?

From BMA, I learned to go for it and if I make a mistake, to get up and try again fast. I learned to go for what others can't do.

What do you miss about Burke?

I loved obstacle courses for training.

What's your fondest BMA campus location?

My favourite location was Frazier house.

THOMAS GRANDI '90 (Canada)



Where were you born?

Bolzano Italy.

What's your current hometown?

Canmore, Alberta, Canada.

How old were you when you moved to Canada?

2 years old.

What's the highest level of ski racing you competed?

I am a 4-time Olympian, having competed at the Lillehammer, Nagano, Salt Lake City and Turin Games.

What's your current profession?

I am a member of the Association of Canadian Mountain Guides as a ski guide. I've also been an innkeeper for our lodge called the Paintbox in Canmore and have been doing very part-time alpine ski coaching.

How did you hear about BMA and choose to attend?

My father researched ski racing schools and found out about Burke which was a unique program across North America. My sisters (Astrid Grandi '89 and Vania Grandi '87) attended too so it was a no brainer for me as well!

How does your BMA experience impact you to this day?

I look back fondly and believe BMA helped me develop a strong work ethic.

What do you miss about Burke?

The simplicity of school, skiing, nature and friends!

What's your fondest BMA tradition or activity?

I loved morning runs believe it or not!

What's your fondest BMA campus location?

Heib house, tucked in the woods up the hill.

Is there a BMA tradition you've kept in adulthood?

For me, it's the mindset. BMA taught me to work hard, set goals, believe in myself and believe I can achieve anything I set my mind to.

MICHELLE WALL '95 (Peru)



Where were you born?

Jindabyne, NSW Australia.

What's your current hometown?

Lima, Peru.

What studies did you complete after BMA?

I graduated with a BA from Whitman College in 2004.

What's the highest level of ski racing you competed?

1997 World Championships in Sestriere.

What's your current profession?

I am the Marketing & Business development manager for three brands under the umbrella Company Andean Experience SAC.. There are two Luxury Hotels ([Titilaka](#) and [Atemporal](#)) and a Luxury Peruvian tour operator ([Peru Empire Co.](#))

How does your BMA experience impact you to this day?

I consider BMA a principal participant in my foundation as a human being. Burke taught me that you get out what you put in.

What do you miss about Burke?

The fresh air.

What's your fondest BMA tradition or activity?

I enjoyed going to Bailey's corner store on the weekends for Ben and Jerry's ice cream. I can't get Ben and Jerry's in Peru!

What's your fondest BMA campus location?

The training hill. It was there that I could forget the rest and just ski.

ABIRI WARD '97 (Norway)



Where were you born?

Washington D.C.

What's your current hometown?

Oslo, Norway.

What studies did you complete after BMA?

I attended CU Boulder from '97-'99 and then Hunter College NYC from '99-'01.

What's the highest level of ski racing you competed?

Eastern Cup/Continental Cup.

What's your current profession?

I'm the founder of the Burrito Project, a healthy, fast Mexican-American food concept chain in Oslo.

How did you hear about BMA and chose to attend?

It was the school I knew I wanted to attend from a very early age. I went to the Christmas Camps from age 10 and fell in love with the environment.

How did you make your way to Norway?

I met my wife in London (UK) through a friend of fellow Burkie, Percy Stith. She had moved to NYC and stayed there for 8 years. We decided to move to Norway four years ago for our daughter Luca because we knew it would be a great place to raise our children. Since moving, we've had twins, Benjamin and Sofia (now ages 2 and a half) and Luca is 8. It's been a fantastic transition and I've been able to learn the language. I attended language classes for the first 2 years which helped a lot.

How does your BMA experience impact you to this day?

BMA gave me the tools and the confidence that I apply in my everyday life. There was no family lineage of skiers for me so it was a sport that was totally foreign to my family and friends growing up. The things I overcame and learned on and off the hill were instrumental in me becoming the person I am today.

What do you miss about Burke?

The friendships. There was a timeless bond that was created during my time at BMA. So many emotions were shared; we all had similar athletic goals and grew so much together as a group.

What's your fondest BMA tradition or activity?

GMR! The spring of my freshman year, I was petrified every time I went into the dining hall and saw the wall. I really didn't think I was capable of doing it. Fortunately, it got easier every year.

What's your fondest BMA campus location?

Eating any meal on the dining hall deck with "The Gap" in the background.

Is there a BMA tradition you've kept in adulthood?

The Norwegians pretty much have it figured out!

ANNA MOLAND '06 (Norway)



Where were you born?

Oslo, Norway

Current hometown?

Oslo, Norway

What studies did you complete after BMA?

Masters of law, University of Oslo and University of Luzern, Switzerland.

What's the highest level of ski racing you competed?

I ski raced alpine at the FIS level. I switched to Skicross when returning to Norway and was the first female on the Norwegian Ski Cross team (2004-2009). I raced World Cup and competed in two World Junior Championships.

What's your current profession?

I have been working as an associate lawyer in a law firm in Norway called Bull & Co. I mainly work with IP-law and sports law. I am currently on maternity leave (almost 1 year in Norway).

How did you end up at BMA?

My friend Emilie Bergene, with whom I skied with in Norway as a J3, was looking at Burke and asked me if I was interested in joining her. I managed to convince my parents that it was a good idea to send me abroad as a 15 year old. To this day my parents say that sending me to Burke was the best investment they ever did.

How did you hear about the school?

I had a ski coach in Norway who had spent a year at BMA.

How does your BMA experience impact you to this day in your personal or professional life?

Burke taught me to not only step outside the comfort zone, but to set goals outside my comfort zone. And in this context the aspired goals always demand honesty to the personal effort I put into different aspects of my life. This is valuable both in my personal life, and professional life.

What do you miss about Burke?

Being around passionate people all the time and the feeling of hard work almost always being fun.

What's your fondest BMA tradition or activity?

Besides skiing on the training hill... Morning workout. I didn't use to love this, but today, I miss starting the day working out with all my best friends. The days I get in a morning run in the cool air, I always think I should have appreciated those mornings more. And I don't think I would have gone to law school if it wasn't for reading period. Being dyslexic, learning to love to read has been very important for me. I hope this still is being practiced.

Fondest BMA campus location?

The Soccer field in the fall.

Is there a BMA philosophy you've kept in adulthood?

I try to remember that I will always regret more the things I didn't do than the things I did. This mindset makes me less afraid of failing than my peers here in Norway. To me, this is very useful in my job, but more important, it means that my fiancé and I still find ways to go skiing, climbing and spending time outside, even after becoming parents to our little boy Olav.

JIM KENNARD '01 (Australia)



Where were you born?

Sydney, Australia.

What's your current hometown?

Sydney, Australia.

What studies did you complete after BMA?

I attended Colorado College and graduated in 2006. I also completed an M.A. from the Pacifica Graduate Institute in Depth Psychology in 2016.

What's the highest level of ski racing you competed?

FIS.

What's your current profession?

I work as a portfolio manager. I am also currently working on a doctoral dissertation in psychology. I'm looking into medieval hatha yoga practices from a psychological perspective: yoga psychology. I practice yoga practically everyday now.

How did you end up at BMA?

I lived in Colorado prior to moving to Burke. I needed a program that could handle my absence from the classroom during the winter and Burke was a school that could do that. Even though the campus was empty when I visited on the weekend of GMR, I felt that Burke had more soul and character than all the other schools combined.

How does your BMA experience impact you to this day?

BMA taught me to have an untiring dedication to practice, which becomes the path of self-development.

What do you miss about Burke?

I miss my old friends, especially those times when we inspired each other.

What's your fondest BMA tradition or activity?

Skiing all the time and traveling around the world to do so was the best.

What's your fondest BMA campus location?

My best memories are in Woods House.

Is there a BMA tradition you've kept?

I still get outside every morning for a nice long walk but don't do as much running.